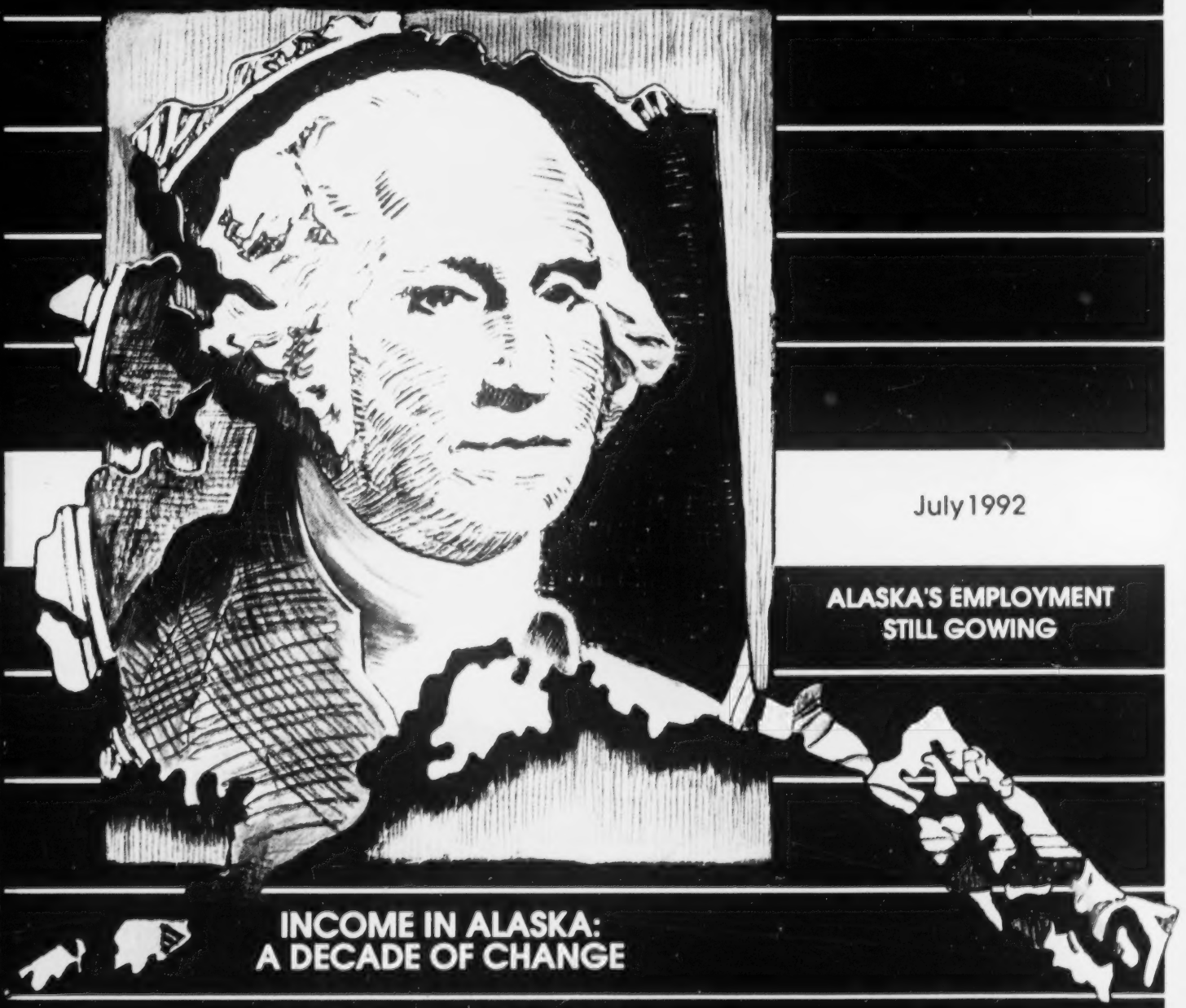
ALASKA ECONOMIC

TRENDS



July 1992

ALASKA'S EMPLOYMENT STILL GOWING

INCOME IN ALASKA: A DECADE OF CHANGE

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
WALTER J. HICKEL, GOVERNOR

ALASKA ECONOMIC
TRENDS

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Correction: In the June issue of *Alaska Economic Trends*, in the article *Industry/Occupation Outlook to 1995* Figures 1 through 8 should read "Annual Employment" instead of "Job Openings." Figures 3 and 7 were transposed and should be read accordingly.

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Income in Alaska: A Decade of Change

by Greg Williams

While Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA) statistics offer annual trends in per capita income, the decennial census offers a more unique look at income distribution and the characteristics of the population with regard to real income.[1]

Alaska ranked first with a median household income of $25,414 in 1979. At that time the national median household income was only $16,841. By 1989, the national median household income had risen to $30,056, an increase of 78.5%. Meanwhile, Alaska had slipped to second place in 1989 with a median household income of $41,408, an increase of only 62.9% over 1979. Connecticut ranked first with $41,721. The result of the differential growth of income in the 1980s has been that while Alaskans still enjoy high incomes, the median household income has declined relative to that of the nation as a whole.

Unique gains in income

As stated above, the median household income in Alaska in 1989 was $41,408, up from $25,414 in 1979. (See Table 1). This is a 62.9% increase during the decade. When considered against the U.S. cost of living index, Alaskan income had a real loss of $1,186 dollars during the decade. When measured against the cost of living in Anchorage, the median household income had a real gain of $4,837 during the decade. Clearly, how Alaskan's income fared depends on how one measures the change in the cost of living over the decade. One could certainly argue that the cost of living in Anchorage is more representative of the real cost to Alaskans than the national cost of living. We have clearly had unique gains this decade in real income. The elimination of the income tax, the gain of permanent fund and longevity bonuses, not to mention a host of other heavily state supported programs ranging from education to housing have contributed to Alaskan income and cost of living during this decade.

Certainly the change in cost of living in different areas of Alaska will differ substantially from that of Anchorage. This will blur analysis of the relative gain or loss of median income over the decade.

Income varies with geography

There is no true comparison available for the newly formed boroughs with their 1980 counterparts. Income comparisons for Aleutians East Borough, Aleutians West census area, Lake and Peninsula Borough and Dillingham census area are not currently possible with any accuracy.

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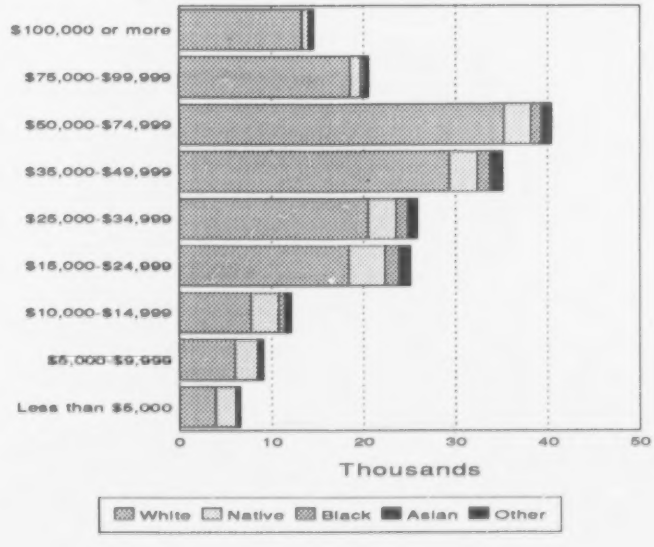
[1] The statistics on income are from Summary Tape File 3. Further tabulations will be available from Summary Tape File 4 in early 1993 and more detail will emerge with further study.

Figure • 1

Household Income in Alaska by Race: 1989



Source: 1990 Census of Population and Housing, Summary Tape File 3.

Table • 1

Household Income for Alaska Boroughs and Census Areas: 1989 and 1979

	Median Income		Change		Adjusted to 1989 $ with US CPI*			Adjusted to 1989 $ with Anchorage CPI			Households	
	1979	1989	1979-89	% 1979-89	Median Income 1979	Change 1979-89	% Change 1979-89	Median Income 1979	Change 1979-89	% Change 1979-89	1980	1990
Alaska	25,414	41,408	15,994	62.9	42,594	-1,186	-2.8	36,571	4,837	13.2	132,369	189,700
Aleutian Islands Census Area	19,389	-	-	-	32,496	-	-	27,901	-	-	1,595	2,383
Aleutians East Borough	-	42,384	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	412	534
Aleutians West Census Area	-	35,187	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,183	1,849
Anchorage Borough	27,375	43,946	16,571	60.5	45,881	-1,935	-4.2	39,393	4,553	11.6	60,826	83,043
Bethel Census Area	13,656	25,402	11,746	86.0	22,887	2,515	11.0	19,651	5,751	29.3	2,705	3,608
Bristol Bay Borough	33,516	51,112	17,596	52.5	56,173	-5,061	-9.0	48,230	2,882	6.0	243	417
Dillingham Census Area	18,977	-	-	-	31,805	-	-	27,308	-	-	1,214	1,723
Dillingham Census Area	-	28,779	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	834	1,212
Lake and Peninsula Borough	-	25,231	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	380	511
Fairbanks North Star Borough	23,647	37,468	13,821	58.4	39,632	-2,164	-5.5	34,028	3,440	10.1	18,357	26,831
Haines Borough	20,893	36,048	15,155	72.5	35,017	1,031	2.9	30,065	5,983	19.9	579	806
Juneau Borough	30,834	47,924	17,090	55.4	51,678	-3,754	-7.3	44,370	3,554	8.0	7,076	9,958
Kenai Peninsula Borough	23,660	42,403	18,743	79.2	39,654	2,749	6.9	34,047	8,356	24.5	8,656	14,323
Ketchikan Gateway Borough	27,015	45,172	18,157	67.2	45,277	-105	-0.2	38,875	6,297	16.2	4,041	4,969
Kodiak Island Borough	26,421	44,815	18,394	69.6	44,282	533	1.2	38,020	6,795	17.9	3,033	4,108
Matanuska-Susitna Borough	23,483	40,745	17,262	73.5	39,358	1,387	3.5	33,792	6,953	20.6	5,711	13,501
Nome Census Area	14,550	30,144	15,594	107.2	24,386	5,758	23.6	20,937	9,207	44.0	1,758	2,407
North Slope Borough	31,378	50,473	19,095	60.9	52,590	-2,117	-4.0	45,153	5,320	11.8	994	1,688
Northwest Arctic Borough	17,756	33,313	15,557	87.6	29,759	3,554	11.9	25,551	7,762	30.4	1,149	1,543
Prince of Wales-Outer Ketchikan Census Area	21,947	39,495	17,548	80.0	36,783	2,712	7.4	31,582	7,913	25.1	1,132	2,068
Sitka Borough	31,133	43,337	12,204	39.2	52,179	-8,842	-16.9	44,800	-1,463	-3.3	2,467	2,933
Skagway-Yakutat-Angoon C.A.	21,396	38,583	17,187	80.3	35,860	2,723	7.6	30,789	7,794	25.3	1,102	1,413
Southeast Fairbanks Census Area	15,903	30,222	14,319	90.0	26,653	3,569	13.4	22,884	7,338	32.1	1,672	1,918
Valdez-Cordova Census Area	27,469	47,500	20,031	72.9	46,038	1,462	3.2	39,528	7,972	20.2	2,695	3,430
Wade Hampton Census Area	11,373	20,586	9,213	81.0	19,061	1,52[illegible]	8.0	16,366	4,220	25.8	964	1,378
Wrangell-Petersburg C.A.	24,403	42,020	17,617	72.2	40,899	1,121	2.7	35,116	6,904	19.7	2,052	2,478
Yukon-Koyukuk Census Area	12,371	23,945	11,574	93.6	20,734	3,211	15.5	17,802	6,143	34.5	2,290	2,774

Source: 1980 and 1990 Census of Population and Housing, Summary Tape File 3.

** = Consumer Price Index*

The areas of Alaska with the lowest incomes and greatest poverty are generally the areas with among the lowest labor force participation and highest unemployment. While the overall income growth for Alaskans during the last decade may be in question, some limited progress has been made in fighting poverty and improving income distribution across the state.

The highest median household incomes for boroughs and census areas in 1989 (see Tables 1 and 2) were found in Bristol Bay ($51,112), North Slope ($50,473), Juneau ($47,924), Valdez-Cordova ($47,500) and Ketchikan-Gateway ($45,172). The lowest median household incomes were found in Wade Hampton ($20,586), Yukon-Koyukuk ($23,945), Lake & Peninsula ($25,231), Bethel ($25,402) and Dillingham ($28,779).

In 1979, the areas with the highest median incomes were found in the following boroughs and census areas: Bristol Bay ($33,516), North Slope ($31,378), Juneau ($30,834), Sitka ($31,133) and Valdez-Cordova ($27,469). The lowest household incomes in 1979 were found in: Wade Hampton ($11,373), Yukon-Koyukuk ($12,371), Bethel ($13,656), Nome ($14,550), and Southeast Fairbanks ($15,903). In general, the areas of the highest and lowest income have remained relatively the

same over the decade. The areas of low income also tend to have the lowest of labor force participation and the highest levels of unemployment.

The greatest increase in median household income among boroughs and census areas during the decade has come in Nome +107.2%, Yukon-Koyukuk +93.6%, Southeast Fairbanks +90.0%, Northwest Arctic +87.6%, and Bethel +86.0%. The Aleutians also gained somewhere between 81% and 119%. The least growth in median household income was found in Sitka +39.2%, Bristol Bay +52.5%, Juneau +55.4%, Fairbanks North Star +58.5%, and Anchorage +60.5%. Lake & Peninsula and Dillingham also grew very slowly (about 33-51%). In general, the slowest relative growth in income occurred in the largest urban areas of the state and the largest relative growth in some of the more rural areas of the state.

Household composition changes

It is important to briefly consider changes in the composition of the households earning incomes. In 1990, census sample data indicated that Alaska had 189,700 households. (See Table 7.) Of these, 71.1% contained families composed of two or more individuals related by blood, marriage or adoption. Married couple families made up 57.5% of all households; 13.6% of the households were made up of single parent families; 9.3% had female heads and 4.3% had male heads. The remaining 28.9% of the households were nonfamily households composed of unrelated individuals. Of these, 21.9% are persons who live alone and 7.0% are composed of two or more unrelated individuals.

Over the decade, the Alaska household changed by the following percentage points: family households -2.1: married couple families -4.5, single parent families +2.5, female headed +1.7, male headed +0.8, nonfamily households +2.1, living alone +2.0, householder not living alone +0.1. All of the household composition changes over the last decade act structurally to reduce household income, since households headed by single parents and persons in nonfamily households tend to have lower income and higher levels of poverty.

In terms of racial composition in 1990, 80.8% of Alaska households were occupied by Whites, 11.8% by Native Americans, and the remaining were occupied by Black 3.7%; Asian and Pacific Islanders 2.6% and other races 1.1%. (See Table 3, Figures 1 and 2.) The category of other races represents a failure of individuals to select one of the four race groups, which should account for 100%.

During the decade the change in household racial composition was the following percentage points: White -2.1, Native American +0.1, Black +0.4, Asian and Pacific Islander +1.1, other races +0.5. Structurally the changing racial composition of households in the state may also have had a depressing effect on median income since non-White income on average is lower than White income.

Table • 2

Median Income and Labor Force Characteristics

Income in 1989	Median Income 1989	Labor Force Participation Rate[1] 1990	Civilian Unemployed Rate 1990	Median Income 1979	Labor Force Participation Rate[1] 1980	Civilian Unemployed Rate 1980
Alaska	41,408	74.7	8.8	25,414	71.5	9.7
Aleutian Islands Census Area	-	-	-	19,389	79.4	6.6
Aleutians East Borough	42,384	73.7	1.4	-	-	-
Aleutians West C.A.	35,187	91.5	3.3	-	-	-
Anchorage Borough	43,946	78.4	7.0	27,375	75.9	8.3
Bethel Census Area	25,402	54.9	13.1	13,656	49.5	11.5
Bristol Bay Borough	51,112	76.4	6.9	33,516	75.4	13.0
Dillingham Census Area	-	-	-	18,977	51.5	17.0
Dillingham Census Area	28,779	53.2	10.6	-	-	-
Lake and Peninsula Bor.	25,231	49.1	15.1	-	-	-
Fairbanks North Star Bor.	37,468	77.1	10.2	23,647	73.6	11.6
Haines Borough	36,048	70.2	7.8	20,893	65.2	7.7
Juneau Borough	47,924	78.7	4.8	30,834	78.9	6.9
Kenai Peninsula Borough	42,403	66.9	10.3	23,660	63.5	13.5
Ketchikan Gateway Bor.	45,172	76.2	7.2	27,015	71.5	5.0
Kodiak Island Borough	44,815	79.8	5.3	26,421	52.0	21.8
Matanuska-Susitna Bor.	40,745	66.5	11.6	23,483	74.5	7.3
Nome Census Area	30,144	61.0	16.5	14,550	62.6	14.2
North Slope Borough	50,473	76.5	14.7	31,378	52.6	17.3
Northwest Arctic Bor.	33,313	57.9	20.3	17,756	69.5	7.5
Prince of Wales-Outer Ketchikan C.A.	39,495	69.9	14.9	21,947	66.2	7.7
Sitka Borough	43,337	78.3	6.7	31,133	74.5	6.6
Skagway-Yakutat-Angoon Census Area	38,583	76.5	13.1	21,396	64.5	16.7
Southeast Fairbanks C.A.	30,222	69.6	15.7	15,903	70.8	19.3
Valdez-Cordova C.A.	47,500	74.0	10.3	27,469	68.8	8.4
Wade Hampton C.A.	20,586	55.7	28.9	11,373	46.0	22.4
Wrangell-Petersburg C.A.	42,020	72.3	6.8	24,403	69.9	9.1
Yukon-Koyukuk C.A.	23,945	62.7	21.4	12,371	54.9	15.5

[1] Labor force as a percent of the population that is 16 years or older.

Source: 1980 and 1990 Census of Population and Housing, Summary Tape File 3.

Racial gaps in per capita income

According to the 1990 census, the per capita income for Alaska in 1989 was $17,610. There was substantial differential by race (see Table 4). Per capita for Whites was $19,903, Asian and Pacific Islanders $13,113, Blacks $12,816 and Native Americans $9,140. In 1980, per capita income was $10,193. Per capita for Whites

Table • 3

Household Income in Alaska by Race: 1989

	Total	White	Black	Native American	Asian & Pacific Islanders	Other Races
	189,700	153,372	7,099	22,325	4,900	2,004
Under $5,000	6,631	3,954	268	2,149	169	91
$5,000-$9,999	9,152	6,067	323	2,457	203	102
$10,000-$14,999	12,128	7,839	660	2,963	443	223
$15,000-$24,999	25,139	18,451	1,504	3,899	901	384
$25,000-$34,999	25,873	20,549	1,229	3,027	730	338
$35,000-$49,999	35,122	29,315	1,412	3,077	926	392
$50,000-$74,999	40,419	35,264	1,080	2,931	853	291
$75,000-$99,999	20,626	18,589	376	1,139	415	107
$100,000 or more	14,610	13,344	247	683	260	76
	Percent Distribution					
Under $5,000	3.5	2.6	3.8	9.6	3.4	4.5
$5,000-$9,999	4.8	4.0	4.5	11.0	4.1	5.1
$10,000-$14,999	6.4	5.1	9.3	13.3	9.0	11.1
$15,000-$24,999	13.3	12.0	21.2	17.5	18.4	19.2
$25,000-$34,999	13.6	13.4	17.3	13.6	14.9	16.9
$35,000-$49,999	18.5	19.1	19.9	13.8	18.9	19.6
$50,000-$74,999	21.3	23.0	15.2	13.1	17.4	14.5
$75,000-$99,999	10.9	12.1	5.3	5.1	8.5	5.3
$100,000 or more	7.7	8.7	3.5	3.1	5.3	3.8

Source: 1990 Census of Population and Housing, Summary Tape File 3.

was $11,405, Asian and Pacific Islanders $8,490, Blacks $8,401, and Native Americans $5,103.

Alaska does not lend itself to easy generalizations about the geographic distribution of per capita income by race. In general, one can note the high per capita income for Natives in fishing areas such as Bristol Bay. Very low per capita income among rural native households reflect very large household size.

During the ten year period, statewide per capita income increased $7,417 or 72.8%. White per capita income increased $8,498 or 74.5%; Asian and Pacific Islander $4,623 or 54.5%; Black $4,415 or 52.6% and Native American $4,037 or 79.1%. This meant that during the decade Native American income increased faster than any other racial group; but it still remains the lowest of all racial groups in Alaska. In 1990, Native American per capita income was only 45.9% that of Whites, while Asian income was 65.9% and Black income was 64.4% of White income respectively.

Aggregate Income

Total aggregate household income in 1989 earned by Alaskans consisted of $9,406,638,345 (see Table 5). Wage and salary income made up 78.6%.

Since public assistance (welfare) is frequently the focus of public attention, it seems important to emphasize that in Alaska 15,043 (0.8%) households had some earnings from public assistance with an average household receiving $4,934 from this source in 1989.

Poverty status relative

The definition of poverty status is based on the cost of food to families of different sizes on a nationwide basis. No adjustment was made in census poverty statistics for the higher cost of living in Alaska. Since the statewide cost of food is approximately 25% above the national average, statistics for 125% of the national poverty level is defined as poverty level in Alaska comparable to the national statistics for 100% of the poverty level. Unfortunately almost no data from the 1990 census on poverty is reported for 125% of poverty.

As with adjustments for cost of living, there are very substantial differences in cost of living among census areas within Alaska. It is probable that the proportion of persons in poverty may be slightly less for Anchorage where the cost of food is closer to the national average and substantially higher than reported for the most remote and least accessible census area. Further, the definition of poverty is difficult to apply in areas where a majority of persons engage in subsistence activities which result in a larger share of food being obtained

Table • 4

Per Capita Income by Race for Census Areas in Alaska: 1989

	($) Total	White	Black	Native American	Asian & Pacific Islanders	Other
Alaska	17,610	19,903	12,816	9,140	13,113	12,601
Aleutians East Borough	17,242	19,552	11,000	17,108	15,040	10,661
Aleutians West Census Area	15,035	16,545	9,973	11,467	14,712	9,782
Anchorage Borough	19,620	21,277	13,649	10,760	13,604	13,713
Bethel Census Area	8,833	24,260	10,377	5,842	11,644	18,484
Bristol Bay Borough	19,123	22,065	25,451	13,080	21,661	12,060
Dillingham Census Area	12,782	24,408	8,873	8,656	7,719	31,577
Fairbanks North Star Borough	15,914	17,145	11,018	9,093	11,062	9,773
Haines Borough	16,204	16,260	20,873	16,618	16,541	8,266
Juneau Borough	19,920	21,937	14,034	10,530	12,850	13,356
Kenai Peninsula Borough	18,173	18,805	7,499	11,919	11,819	7,831
Ketchikan Gateway Borough	18,789	20,414	13,676	11,289	11,462	10,731
Kodiak Island Borough	19,979	23,564	16,173	12,237	11,058	9,484
Lake and Peninsula Borough	11,560	18,911	0	9,292	5,973	30,150
Matanuska-Susitna Borough	15,898	16,382	13,079	9,199	7,597	10,287
Nome Census Area	10,701	23,538	27,873	6,373	3,355	23,280
North Slope Borough	18,231	38,503	31,174	12,120	19,972	25,413
Northwest Arctic Borough	10,040	26,113	20,827	7,236	42,812	0
Prince of Wales-Outer Ketchikan C.A.	15,510	17,710	11,603	11,942	17,353	12,145
Sitka Borough	16,962	18,461	20,326	11,950	14,467	24,639
Skagway-Yakutat-Angoon C.A.	15,463	18,403	1,855	10,960	17,749	6,653
Southeast Fairbanks Census Area	12,505	13,803	8,578	7,326	6,617	7,855
Valdez-Cordova Census Area	22,772	24,443	12,715	14,789	12,793	17,363
Wade Hampton Census Area	6,519	27,646	16,977	5,059	10,608	32,820
Wrangell-Petersburg Census Area	19,012	20,313	13,126	13,848	24,935	10,205
Yukon-Koyukuk Census Area	11,554	18,886	14,020	6,022	9,327	9,818

Source: 1990 Census of Population and Housing, Summary Tape File 3.

from the land. At best, the statistics on poverty for Alaska should be viewed with caution and only as indicators of the general relative poverty status of the citizens of the state.

The census reports 47,906 people (or 9.0% of the state's population) are considered to be living in poverty (see Table 6). At 125% of the poverty line, that number increases to 66,558 or 12.5% of the state's population.

While only 10.1% of the population of Anchorage was in poverty, they accounted for 33.5% of all persons in poverty in Alaska. The majority of the predominately Native rural areas of the state continued to have over 20% of their population in poverty. The highest were: Wade Hampton 42.6%, Bethel 37.7%, Yukon-Koyukuk 32.6%. Most of these had the highest poverty in 1979. Not surprisingly, these areas also ranked among the lowest in per capita income (see Table 4). The greatest decreases in poverty during the last decade has occurred in the following rural boroughs and census areas: Northwest Arctic, Southeast Fairbanks, Skagway-Yakutat-Angoon, Wade Hampton, Kodiak Island, Nome, Yukon-Koyukuk, and Kenai Peninsula.

The census areas with the lowest poverty levels in 1989 were: Bristol Bay 6.3%, Ketchikan Gateway 6.6% and Sitka 7.2%. These remain among the areas with the lowest poverty in 1979. Only Juneau, Dillingham and Bristol Bay appear to have had an increase in poverty during the decade. The largest increased occurred in Juneau (+1.6 percentage points).

On the other hand, poverty appears to have increased during the decade in the Juneau Borough by 1.6 points, the Dillingham census area by 1.2 points and in the Bristol Bay Borough by 0.3 of a point.

Unfortunately, none of the data on characteristics of poverty are adjusted to the 125% level for Alaska. The reader should be aware that the relationships observed here for households in poverty are based on the 100% national poverty level and that the actual levels will probably be on the order of 3.5% higher than what is reported (see Table 6).

In general, persons under 25 and over 75 tend to have higher levels of poverty. The age groups with the highest levels of poverty are found among persons 18-24 and children under 5 in families (see Table 7 and 8).

When considering household composition, the lowest levels of poverty are found among married couple families where only 3.7% of Alaska married couple households live in poverty. The highest levels are found

Table • 5

Aggregate and Mean Income by Type in 1989

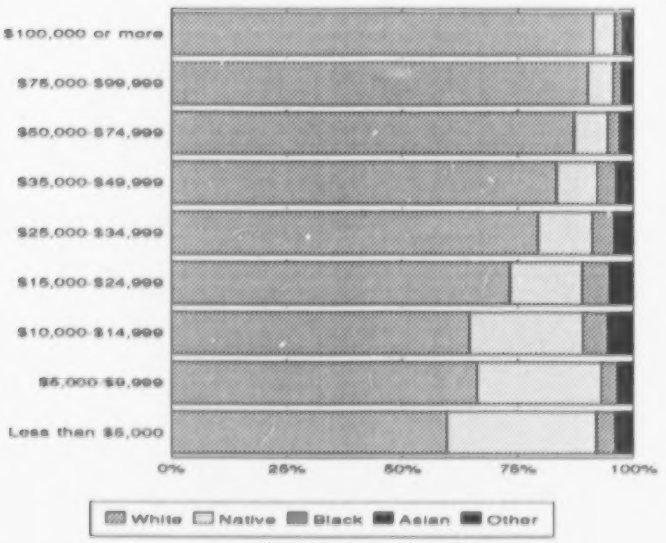
	Aggregate Income 1989 ($)	% Distribution	Households with Earnings by Type	Mean Income ($)
Total	$9,406,638,345		175,159	53,703
Wage and Salary Income	7,392,889,004	78.6	168,853	43,783
Nonfarm Self-employment Income	812,762,147	8.6	35,475	22,911
Farm Self-employment Income	13,453,664	0.1	2,454	5,482
Interest, Dividend, Net Rental Income	552,169,019	5.9	148,874	3,709
Social Security Income	146,883,585	1.6	20,371	7,210
Public Assistance Income	74,217,396	0.8	15,043	4,934
Retirement and Disability Income	307,064,125	3.3	24,232	12,672
Other Income [1]	107,199,405	1.1	30,439	3,522

[1] Other income includes: unemployment insurance, alimony and child support, contributions from persons not in the household, military family allocations, net gambling winnings and other periodic contributions.

Source: 1990 Census of Population and Housing, Summary Tape File 3.

Figure • 2

1989 Percent Distribution of Household Income in Alaska



Source: 1990 Census of Population and Housing, Summary Tape File 3.

among single-parent families with 24.1% of female-headed households in poverty. Male-headed single-parent families have 11.6% in poverty. Nonfamily households also have higher levels of poverty with 10.8% in poverty. Of these households, those containing single individuals have 11.1% in poverty. Households containing two or more unrelated persons had 10.1% in poverty.

In general, poverty among the elderly does not significantly increase until over age 75. Among those over 75, 12.3% were in poverty. Among those over 75 living alone or heading single-parent households, poverty increases to over 14%.

While the overall 100% poverty level in Alaska was 9.0% in 1989, there was substantial variation by race. (See Table 8.)

Among Native Americans, 14.6% of the married couple families were in poverty. Among Native American female-headed families with children under 5, 46.9% were in poverty.

As noted above, female-headed households account for the largest single category of persons in poverty. The percent of female-headed households below the 100% poverty line for Native households was 45%, for Whites 47% and for Blacks 54%. Only Asian households are different in this regard with female-headed households

Table • 6

Persons in Poverty for Alaska Census Areas: 1979-89

	Total	Below 100% of Poverty 1989	% of Total	Below 125% of Poverty 1989	%of Total	Below 125% of Poverty 1979	% of Total	Change in Poverty 1979-89	% Point Change 1979-89
Alaska	532,474	47,906	9.0	66,558	12.5	55,909	14.4	10,649	-1.9
Aleutian Islands Census Area	9,852	954	9.7	1,448	14.7	928	15.7	520	-1.0
Aleutians East Borough	2,459	292	11.9	446	18.1		-	-	-
Aleutians West Census Area	7,393	662	9.0	1,002	13.6		-	-	-
Anchorage Borough	220,789	15,614	7.1	22,306	10.1	17,250	10.2	5,056	-0.1
Bethel Census Area	13,396	4,022	30.0	5,053	37.7	4,326	39.9	727	-2.2
Bristol Bay Borough	1,146	59	5.1	72	6.3	45	6.0	27	0.3
Dillingham Census Area	5,655	1,314	23.2	1,705	30.2	1,334	29.0	-1,334	1.2
Dillingham Census Area	4,005	984	24.6	1,239	30.9		-	-	-
Lake and Peninsula Borough	1,650	330	20.0	466	28.2		-	-	-
Fairbanks North Star Borough	73,506	5,574	7.6	8,446	11.5	6,934	13.7	1,512	-2.2
Haines Borough	2,041	187	9.2	260	12.7	291	17.4	-31	-4.7
Juneau Borough	26,247	1,468	5.6	1,962	7.5	1,135	5.9	827	1.6
Kenai Peninsula Borough	39,725	3,076	7.7	4,089	10.3	4,084	16.3	5	-6.0
Ketchikan Gateway Borough	13,485	566	4.2	888	6.6	966	8.8	-78	-2.2
Kodiak Island Borough	12,753	703	5.5	1,059	8.3	1,634	14.6	-575	-6.3
Matanuska-Susitna Borough	38,996	3,661	9.4	5,157	13.2	1,380	15.5	3,777	-2.3
Nome Census Area	8,083	1,809	22.4	2,416	29.9	2,719	36.1	-303	-6.2
North Slope Borough	5,843	506	8.7	591	10.1	2,335	13.7	-1,744	-3.6
Northwest Arctic Borough	6,038	1,115	18.5	1,378	22.8	546	34.2	832	-11.4
Prince of Wales-Outer Ketchikan C.A.	6,246	570	9.1	788	12.6	529	13.9	259	-1.3
Sitka Borough	8,256	398	4.8	596	7.2	531	7.2	65	0.0
Skagway-Yakutat-Angoon Census Area	4,374	390	8.9	576	13.2	689	20.1	-113	-6.9
Southeast Fairbanks Census Area	5,689	807	14.2	991	17.4	1,389	26.4	-398	-9.0
Valdez-Cordova Census Area	9,700	865	8.9	1,147	11.8	1,260	15.6	-113	-3.8
Wade Hampton Census Area	5,787	1,794	31.0	2,467	42.6	2,267	49.0	200	-6.4
Wrangell-Petersburg Census Area	6,962	395	5.7	586	8.4	536	8.8	50	-0.4
Yukon-Koyukuk Census Area	7,905	2,059	26.0	2,577	32.6	2,801	38.7	-224	-6.1

Source: 1980 and 1990 Census of Population and Housing, Summary Tape File 3.

accounting for only 24% of all households in poverty. This may result from a greater tendency of Asian families to be intact or part of extended family households.

In general, poverty has decreased somewhat in Alaska since 1979; 6.8% of all families were in poverty in 1989, compared to 8.6% in 1979. Poverty among families in 1989 was: White 4.5%, Asian 6.0%, Black 8.8%, Native 21.5%. Poverty among families in 1979 was as follows: White 6.0%, Asian 6.6%, Black 9.2%, and Native 25.3%. While the greatest percent decline in poverty came among Native Americans, there is a long way to go before any degree of equality of income can be achieved.

Conclusions

While any relative improvement in Alaskans' income during the last decade is in question, some progress has been made in fighting poverty and improving the geographic distribution of income across the state. More improvement might have occurred if changing household composition had not had a depressing effect on household income. Improved household income for Native households, in particular, continues to be offset by large household size. While progress has been made towards greater income equality, the household income of Native Americans clearly remains the lowest of all racial groups in the state.

Table • 7

Poverty Status by Age of Householder by Household Type in Alaska: 1989

Total Householders

	15+ Years	% of Total	15-64 Years	% of Total	65-74 Years	% of Total	75+ Years	% of Total
Total Households	189,700	100.0	175,619	92.6	10,021	5.3	4,060	2.1
Married Couple Families	109,100	57.5	102,730	94.2	4,974	4.6	1,396	1.3
Other Families	25,706	13.6	24,136	93.9	1,040	4.0	530	2.1
Male Householder	8,141	4.3	7,707	94.7	284	3.5	150	1.8
Female Householder	17,565	9.3	16,429	93.5	756	4.3	380	2.2

Below Poverty

	15+ Years	% of Total	15-64 Years	% of Total	65-74 Years	% of Total	75+ Years	% of Total
Total Households	15,140	100.0	13,897	91.8	742	4.9	501	3.3
Married Couple Families	4,018	26.5	3,724	92.7	190	4.7	104	2.6
Other Families	5,180	34.2	4,977	96.1	127	2.5	76	1.5
Male Householder	942	6.2	875	92.9	44	4.7	23	2.4
Female Householder	4,238	28.0	4,102	96.8	83	2.0	53	1.3
Nonfamily Households	5,942	39.2	5,196	87.4	425	7.2	321	5.4
Householder Alone	4,587	30.3	3,870	84.4	410	8.9	307	6.7
Householder Not Alone	1,355	8.9	1,326	97.9	15	1.1	14	1.0

% Below Poverty

	15+ Years	15-64 Years	65-74 Years	75+ Years
Total Households	8.0	7.9	7.4	12.3
Married Couple Families	3.7	3.6	3.8	7.4
Other Families	20.2	20.6	12.2	14.3
Male Householder	11.6	11.4	15.5	15.3
Female Householder	24.1	25.0	11.0	13.9
Nonfamily Households	10.8	10.7	10.6	15.0
Householder Alone	11.1	10.8	10.8	15.2
Householder Not Alone	10.1	10.2	6.8	11.7

Definitions

Income is defined slightly differently by the census and BEA. The census definition of "total income" is the sum of wage and salary income; nonfarm self-employment income; farm self-employment income; interest, dividend or net rental income, social security income, public assistance income, retirement or disability income; and all other income which includes unemployment insurance, Veterans Administration payments, alimony and child support, contributions received periodically from persons not living in the household, military family allotments, net gambling winnings, and other kinds of periodic income other than earnings. Not included are: money received from the sale of property; value of income "in kind" from food stamps, public housing subsidies, medical care, employer contributions for persons, etc; withdrawal of bank deposits; money borrowed; tax refunds; exchange of money between relatives living in the same household; gifts and lump-sum inheritances, insurance payments, and other types of lump-sum receipts.

Mean household income is the "average income;" it is the total income divided by the total number of people earning income.

Median household income is the "middle case;" 50% of households have income above or below this income.

Families in Poverty by Race and Age of Children in Alaska: 1989

	Number of Families						Families with Income Below Poverty					
	Total	White	Black	Native Amer.	Asian/ Pac. Is.	Other	Total	White	Black	Native Amer.	Asian/ Pac. Is.	Other
Total Families	134,806	107,661	5,418	16,505	3,805	1,417	9,198	4,848	478	3,545	228	99
Married Couple Families	109,100	91,277	3,956	9,767	2,976	1,124	4,018	2,270	130	1,428	158	32
With Children Under 18	66,917	53,956	2,681	7,325	2,130	825	3,127	1,576	128	1,265	134	24
Under 5	15,866	13,076	701	1,308	529	252	713	395	19	249	30	20
5 to 17	33,677	27,976	1,174	3,131	1,036	360	960	536	40	333	51	0
Under 5 & 5-17	17,374	12,904	806	2,886	565	213	1,454	645	69	683	53	4
No Related Children Under 18	42,183	37,321	1,275	2,442	846	299	891	694	2	163	24	8
Other Families	25,706	16,384	1,462	6,738	829	293	5,180	2,578	348	2,117	70	67
Male Householder, No Wife Present	8,141	5,366	342	2,061	271	101	942	311	89	521	15	6
With Children Under 18	5,370	3,514	268	1,375	155	58	758	234	81	434	3	6
Under 5	1,623	1,006	88	460	59	10	281	84	37	154	0	6
5 to 17	2,955	2,131	136	576	69	43	238	87	21	130	0	0
Under 5 & 5-17	792	377	44	339	27	5	239	63	23	150	3	0
No Related Children Under 18	2,771	1,852	74	686	116	43	184	77	8	87	12	0
Female Householder, No Husband Present	17,565	11,018	1,120	4,677	558	192	4,238	2,267	259	1,596	55	61
With Children Under 18	14,441	9,007	1,004	3,830	429	171	4,050	2,204	243	1,489	55	59
Under 5	3,310	1,975	232	939	101	63	1,182	616	73	440	27	26
5 to 17	8,294	5,560	570	1,824	278	62	1,653	950	89	584	17	13
Under 5 & 5-17	2,837	1,472	202	1,067	50	46	1,215	638	81	465	11	20
No Related Children Under 18	3,124	2,011	116	847	129	21	188	63	16	107	0	2

	Percent Distribution of Poverty by Family Type						Percent of Families in Poverty					
	Total	White	Black	Native Amer.	Asian/ Pac. Is.	Other	Total	White	Black	Native Amer.	Asian/ Pac. Is.	Other
Total Families	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	6.8	4.5	8.8	21.5	6.0	7.0
Married Couple Families	43.7	46.8	27.2	40.3	69.3	32.3	3.7	2.5	3.3	14.6	5.3	2.8
With Children Under 18	34.0	32.5	26.8	35.7	58.8	24.2	4.7	2.9	4.8	17.3	6.3	2.9
Under 5	7.8	8.1	4.0	7.0	13.2	20.2	4.5	3.0	2.7	19.0	5.7	7.9
5 to 17	10.4	11.1	8.4	9.4	22.4	0.0	2.9	1.9	3.4	10.6	4.9	0.0
Under 5 & 5-17	15.8	13.3	14.4	19.3	23.2	4.0	8.4	5.0	8.6	23.7	9.4	1.9
No Related Children Under 18	9.7	14.3	0.4	4.6	10.5	8.1	2.1	1.9	0.2	6.7	2.8	2.7
Other Families	56.3	53.2	72.8	59.7	30.7	67.7	20.2	15.7	23.8	31.4	8.4	22.9
Male Householder, No Wife Present	10.2	6.4	18.6	14.7	6.6	6.1	11.6	5.8	26.0	25.3	5.5	5.9
With Children Under 18	8.2	4.8	16.9	12.2	1.3	6.1	14.1	6.7	30.2	31.6	1.9	10.3
Under 5	3.1	1.7	7.7	4.3	0.0	6.1	17.3	8.3	42.0	33.5	0.0	60.0
5 to 17	2.6	1.8	4.4	3.7	0.0	0.0	8.1	4.1	15.4	22.6	0.0	0.0
Under 5 & 5-17	2.6	1.3	4.8	4.2	1.3	0.0	30.2	16.7	52.3	44.2	11.1	0.0
No Related Children Under 18	2.0	1.6	1.7	2.5	5.3	0.0	6.6	4.2	10.8	12.7	10.3	0.0
Female Householder, No Husband Present	46.1	46.8	54.2	45.0	24.1	61.6	24.1	20.6	23.1	34.1	9.9	31.8
With Children Under 18	44.0	45.5	50.8	42.0	24.1	59.6	28.0	24.5	24.2	38.9	12.8	34.5
Under 5	12.9	12.7	15.3	12.4	11.8	26.3	35.7	31.2	31.5	46.9	26.7	41.3
5 to 17	18.0	19.6	18.6	16.5	7.5	13.1	19.9	17.1	15.6	32.0	6.1	21.0
Under 5 & 5-17	13.2	13.2	16.9	13.1	4.8	20.2	42.8	43.3	40.1	43.6	22.0	43.5
No Related Children Under 18	2.0	1.3	3.3	3.0	0.0	2.0	6.0	3.1	13.8	12.6	0.0	9.5
Under 5	12.9	35.7	12.7	31.2	15.3	31.5	12.4	46.9	11.8	26.7	26.3	41.3
5 to 17	18.0	19.9	19.6	17.1	18.6	15.6	16.5	32.0	7.5	6.1	13.1	21.0
Under 5 & 5-17	13.2	42.8	13.2	43.3	16.9	40.1	13.1	43.6	4.8	22.0	20.2	43.5
No Related Children Under 18	2.0	6.0	1.3	3.1	3.3	13.8	3.0	12.6	0.0	0.0	2.0	9.5

Source: 1990 Census of Population and Housing, Summary Tape File 3.

Alaska's Employment Still Growing

By Neal Fried

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In spite of the litany of bad economic news during the past six months, Alaska's economy is still managing to grow. For the first four months of the year employment in the state registered 2.2% higher than the equivalent time last year. Put another way, 5,000 more jobs exist in today's economy compared to the first four months of 1991. Given historical rates of employment growth, one could characterize the current growth rate as tepid. It does, however, outshine the recessionary years of 1986-1988 and is similar to the state's employment growth rate in 1984-85.

Oil and timber industries down

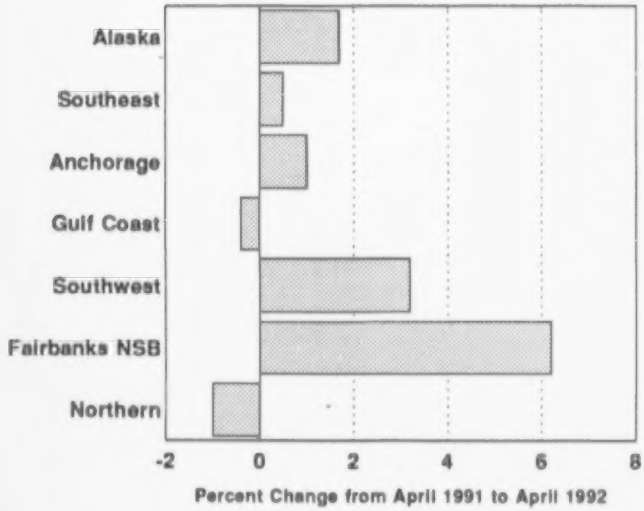
The oil and timber industries' employment levels are the only negatives on Alaska's economic ledger. (See Table 1.) The poor showing in the state's oil industry is not surprising given that three of the state's four largest oil industry employers recently announced they would be downsizing. Thus far, however, smaller oil field service companies have taken the brunt of the losses. This is why oil patch employment is expected to continue to decline; especially as the consolidation efforts of the larger players kick in. Only a strong increase in oil prices or a major new find could turn this trend around.

In spite of the overall bleak oil industry picture, there was some recent good news. Petro Star broke ground in April for their $30 million refinery in Valdez—a value-added spinoff from the oil industry. They expect to employ 25 workers at the new refinery. Also, the three largest producers on the North Slope agreed on a plan to develop Point McIntyre, a field with 300 million barrels of recoverable oil which was discovered in 1988. Its development will create 800 temporary jobs and $1.3 billion in state revenues; production will begin in late 1993.

Alaska's other industry in the loser category is timber. Mill closures, litigation and the dwindling availability of private timber are keeping employment levels depressed in this industry. Seasonally, the industry enjoyed a sizeable increase in jobs this April. The industry's fortunes may improve in the near future as timber prices and other wood product prices firm up.

Figure • 1

Most Regions Showed Job Growth in April



Source: Alaska Department of Labor, Research and Analysis Section.

Several sectors keep numbers growing

Seafood processors added 1,000 jobs to their payroll from March to April; more importantly, there were 400 more jobs this April than last. From a seasonal standpoint the herring and herring roe harvest boosted April's job count. From an over-the-year perspective bottomfishing activity is keeping the processing numbers in the black. A larger bottomfish harvest is not what is keeping

the numbers growing; it is the additional shore-based capacity. Most of these gains are in the Southwest region—specifically Dutch Harbor. In fact, processing employment in Dutch Harbor exceeded Kodiak's for the first time during select months last year. In 1991 more fish were landed at Dutch Harbor than any other port in the U.S..

Air transportation can brag about 400 more jobs this year. Two sources of growth are responsible for these increases. One is increased competition. Mark Air and Alaska Airlines entered new markets. As a result they both increased the size of their work force. This growth may not be sustainable in light of the fact that many air carriers in Alaska are now operating in the red. Mark Air announced they would be pulling out of the Southeast markets they recently entered.

The other part of air transportation's equation is the steady growth in the international air cargo business. Federal Express's employment continues to expand gradually as Pacific Rim trade grows. More Federal Express pilots are moving into Anchorage. Both Federal Express and Alaska Airlines plan to expand their facilities next year, to the tune of $60 million.

Retail trade is another industry which is propping up the state's employment numbers with job growth of 1,100 both over-the-month and over-the-year. The massive new entry of

Table • 1

Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment by Place of Work — Alaska & Municipality of Anchorage

Alaska

	p/ 4/92	r/ 3/92	Changes from: 4/91	3/92	4/91
Total Nonag. Wage & Salary	240,400	235,700	236,400	4,700	4,000
Goods-producing	37,300	35,100	38,400	2,200	-1,100
Mining	10,800	10,600	12,000	200	-1,200
Construction	8,600	8,100	8,600	500	0
Manufacturing	17,900	16,400	17,800	1,500	100
Durable Goods	3,100	2,700	3,400	400	-300
Lumber & Wood Products	2,300	2,000	2,700	300	-400
Nondurable Goods	14,800	13,700	14,400	1,100	400
Seafood Processing	10,900	9,800	10,500	1,100	400
Pulp Mills	900	900	900	0	0
Service-producing	203,100	200,600	198,000	2,500	5,100
Transportation	21,100	20,800	20,400	300	700
Trucking & Warehousing	2,700	2,700	2,600	0	100
Water Transportation	1,200	1,200	1,500	0	-300
Air Transportation	6,900	6,700	6,500	200	400
Communications	3,500	3,500	3,400	0	100
Trade	46,000	44,800	44,800	1,200	1,200
Wholesale Trade	7,700	7,600	7,600	100	100
Retail Trade	38,300	37,200	37,200	1,100	1,100
Gen. Merch. & Apparel	6,200	6,200	5,500	0	700
Food Stores	7,100	6,900	6,600	200	500
Eating & Drinking Places	13,100	12,400	12,900	700	200
Finance-Ins. & Real Estate	10,700	10,600	10,400	100	300
Services & Misc.	50,600	50,100	50,200	500	400
Hotels & Lodging Places	4,700	4,500	4,600	200	100
Health Services	11,300	11,300	11,000	0	300
Government	74,700	74,300	72,200	400	2,500
Federal	18,900	18,500	18,300	400	600
State	22,500	22,600	21,900	-100	600
Local	33,300	33,200	32,000	100	1,300

Municipality of Anchorage

	p/ 4/92	r/ 3/92	4/91	3/92	4/91
Total Nonag. Wage & Salary	110,700	110,100	109,600	600	1,100
Goods-producing	10,500	10,300	11,100	200	-600
Mining	3,500	3,500	4,000	0	-500
Construction	4,600	4,500	4,700	100	-100
Manufacturing	2,400	2,300	2,400	100	0
Service-producing	100,200	99,800	98,500	400	1,700
Transportation	11,500	11,500	11,100	0	400
Communications	2,100	2,200	2,100	-100	0
Trade	25,100	24,700	25,300	400	-200
Wholesale Trade	5,600	5,700	5,600	-100	0
Retail Trade	19,500	19,000	19,700	500	-200
Food Stores	3,300	3,300	3,200	0	100
Finance-Ins. & Real Estate	6,700	6,700	6,600	0	100
Services & Misc.	28,700	28,800	28,300	-100	400
Hotels & Lodging Places	2,300	2,200	2,300	100	0
Health Services	6,000	6,000	5,900	0	100
Government	28,200	28,100	27,200	100	1,000
Federal	10,700	10,600	10,300	100	400
State	8,300	8,300	8,200	0	100
Local	9,200	9,200	8,700	0	500

Notes: Prepared in cooperation with the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Government includes teachers in primary and secondary schools, and personnel employed by the University of Alaska.

The employment numbers that appear here are definitionally different from those that appear in the Labor Force table.

Benchmark: March 1991
p/ denotes preliminary estimates
r/ denotes revised estimates

Source: Alaska Department of Labor, Research & Analysis Section.

Table • 2

Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment By Place of Work

Southeast Region

	p/ 4/92	r/ 3/92	Changes from: 4/91	3/92	4/91
Total Nonag. Wage & Salary	32,700	31,550	32,550	1,150	150
Goods-producing	5,400	4,950	5,650	450	-250
Mining	350	350	350	0	0
Construction	1,100	950	1,100	150	0
Manufacturing	3,950	3,650	4,200	300	-250
Durable Goods	1,900	1,700	2,250	200	-350
Lumber & Woods Products	1,850	1,600	2,150	250	-300
Nondurable Goods	2,050	1,950	1,950	100	100
Seafood Processing	1,000	850	850	150	150
Pulp Mills	900	900	900	0	0
Service-producing	27,300	26,600	26,900	700	400
Transportation	2,500	2,300	2,500	200	0
Trade	5,500	5,350	5,300	150	200
Wholesale Trade	550	550	550	0	0
Retail Trade	4,950	4,800	4,750	150	200
Finance-Ins. & Real Estate	1,100	1,100	1,100	0	0
Services & Misc.	5,450	5,350	5,400	100	50
Government	12,750	12,500	12,600	250	150
Federal	2,000	1,900	1,950	100	50
State	5,550	5,500	5,650	50	-100
Local	5,200	5,100	5,000	100	200

Fairbanks North Star Borough

	p/ 4/92	r/ 3/92	Changes from: 4/91	3/92	4/91
Total Nonag. Wage & Salary	28,050	27,750	26,400	300	1,650
Goods-producing	1,850	1,700	1,700	150	150
Mining	200	200	200	0	0
Construction	1,050	950	950	100	100
Manufacturing	600	550	550	50	50
Service-producing	26,200	26,050	24,700	150	1,500
Transportation	1,950	2,000	1,800	-50	150
Trucking & Warehousing	450	400	400	50	50
Air Transportation	500	500	450	0	50
Communication	300	300	300	0	0
Trade	6,400	6,200	5,850	200	550
Wholesale Trade	750	750	750	0	0
Retail Trade	5,650	5,450	5,100	200	550
Gen. Merch. & Apparel	1,000	950	550	50	450
Food Stores	750	750	750	0	0
Eating & Drinking Places	2,000	1,850	2,000	150	0
Finance-Ins. & Real Estate	950	1,000	900	-50	50
Services & Misc.	5,950	5,900	5,950	50	0
Government	10,950	10,950	10,200	0	750
Federal	3,250	3,050	3,150	200	100
State	4,750	4,950	4,150	-200	600
Local	2,950	2,950	2,900	0	50

Anchorage-MatSu Region

	p/ 4/92	r/ 3/92	Changes from: 4/91	3/92	4/91
Total Nonag. Wage & Salary	118,550	117,650	117,500	900	1,050
Goods-producing	11,050	10,800	11,700	250	-650
Mining	3,650	3,700	4,200	-50	-550
Construction	4,900	4,750	5,000	150	-100
Manufacturing	2,500	2,350	2,500	150	0
Service-producing	107,500	106,850	105,800	650	1,700
Transportation	12,200	12,200	11,850	0	350
Trade	27,050	26,600	27,150	450	-100
Finance-Ins. & Real Estate	7,050	7,000	6,950	50	100
Service & Misc.	30,200	30,250	29,850	-50	350
Government	31,000	30,800	30,000	200	1,000
Federal	10,800	10,700	10,450	100	350
State	9,100	9,050	9,050	50	50
Local	11,100	11,050	10,500	50	600

Interior Region

	p/ 4/92	r/ 3/92	Changes from: 4/91	3/92	4/91
Total Nonag. Wage & Salary	31,950	31,600	30,000	350	1,950
Goods-producing	2,050	1,900	1,850	150	200
Mining	400	350	350	50	50
Construction	1,050	1,000	950	50	100
Manufacturing	600	550	550	50	50
Service-producing	29,900	29,700	28,150	200	1,750
Transportation	2,250	2,250	2,000	0	250
Trade	6,750	6,550	6,150	200	600
Finance-Ins. & Real Estate	1,000	1,050	1,000	-50	0
Services & Misc.	6,450	6,350	6,400	100	50
Government	13,450	13,500	12,600	-50	850
Federal	3,900	3,700	3,800	200	100
State	5,000	5,250	4,450	-250	550
Local	4,550	4,550	4,350	0	200

Table • 2

Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment By Place of Work

Northern Region

	p/ 4/92	r/ 3/92	Changes from: 4/91	3/92	4/91
Total Nonag. Wage & Salary	14,800	14,450	15,100	350	-300
Goods-producing	5,850	5,650	6,450	200	-600
Mining	5,300	5,100	5,900	200	-600
Service-producing	8,950	8,800	8,650	150	300
Government	4,550	4,550	4,350	0	200
Federal	250	250	250	0	0
State	350	350	350	0	0
Local	3,950	3,950	3,750	0	200

Gulf Coast Region

	p/ 4/92	r/ 3/92	Changes from: 4/91	3/92	4/91
Total Nonag. Wage & Salary	24,000	22,750	24,100	1,250	-100
Goods-producing	6,500	5,800	6,750	700	-250
Mining	1,100	1,150	1,150	-50	-50
Construction	900	800	900	100	0
Manufacturing	4,500	3,850	4,700	650	-200
Seafood Processing	3,650	3,000	3,700	650	-50
Service-producing	17,500	16,950	17,350	550	150
Transportation	2,050	1,950	2,000	100	50
Trade	4,250	3,850	4,000	400	250
Wholesale Trade	450	450	450	0	0
Retail Trade	3,800	3,400	3,550	400	250
Finance-Ins. & Real Estate	600	600	550	0	50
Services & Misc.	4,550	4,450	4,500	100	50
Government	6,050	6,100	6,300	-50	-250
Federal	500	500	550	0	-50
State	1,850	1,800	1,900	50	-50
Local	3,700	3,800	3,850	-100	-150

Southwest Region

	p/ 4/92	r/ 3/92	Changes from: 4/91	3/92	4/91
Total Nonag. Wage & Salary	17,800	17,500	17,250	300	550
Goods-producing	6,300	6,000	5,950	300	350
Seafood Processing	6,050	5,750	5,650	300	400
Service-producing	11,500	11,500	11,300	0	200
Government	6,400	6,500	6,450	-100	-50
Federal	1,300	1,300	1,300	0	0
State	500	550	550	-50	-50
Local	4,600	4,650	4,600	-50	0

Municipality of Anchorage — Other

	p/ 4/92	r/ 3/92	Changes from: 4/91	3/92	4/91
Durable Goods	500	400	500	100	0
Nondurable Goods	1,900	1,900	1,900	0	0
Trucking & Warehousing	1,700	1,700	1,600	0	100
Water Transportation	300	300	300	0	0
Air Transportation	4,300	4,300	4,100	0	200
Gen. Merch.& Apparel	3,000	3,000	2,900	0	100
Eating & Drinking Places	7,300	6,900	7,400	400	-100

Notes: Prepared in part with funding from the Alaska State Employment Security Division.
Government includes teachers in primary and secondary schools, and personnel employed by the University of Alaska.

The employment numbers that appear here are definitionally different from those that appear in the Labor Force table.

Benchmark: March 1991
p/ denotes preliminary estimates
r/ denotes revised estimates

Source: Alaska Department of Labor, Research & Analysis Section.

retailers into the Fairbanks market is the single biggest reason for these increases. It is also the main reason Fairbanks' total employment growth is so far ahead of the other regions in the state. (See Figure 1.) The April opening in Kenai of Carrs Quality Centers' largest store in the state boosted retail jobs in Gulf Coast by 100. (See Table 2.)

Conversely, the performance of Anchorage, the state's largest retail market, has been lackluster at best. In April employment was down slightly over-the-year. This could change soon. As in Fairbanks last year when new stores opened, Anchorage retail employment numbers should get a boost later this year. Costco and Eagle Hardware have already broken ground for new stores; combined, they will hire approximately 300-400 employees. K-mart and Pace announced intentions of breaking ground in 1992. If these other two retailers build stores, this would further boost retail employment by more than 400. These increases are unlikely to be net new jobs in the economy because the retail pie is probably not growing fast enough to absorb all of this new retail capacity. What is more likely to happen is that many retailers will trim their work forces as they divide this pie up into more pieces.

A predicted healthy tourist season should prove beneficial to the state retail sector. It should also breathe a little more life into a slack services industry. At the present time Alaska's services industry is posting a 400 job increase above year-ago levels. Nearly all of this growth has come in health services and hotels. Legal, business, auto services and others are either maintaining or losing ground. The significance of this sector's present sluggish performance is that during the past four years it led all other industries' growth, adding 8,200 new jobs to the economy. Services' humdrum performance is another sign that income growth remains weak and there is not much impetus for growth in Alaska's economy.

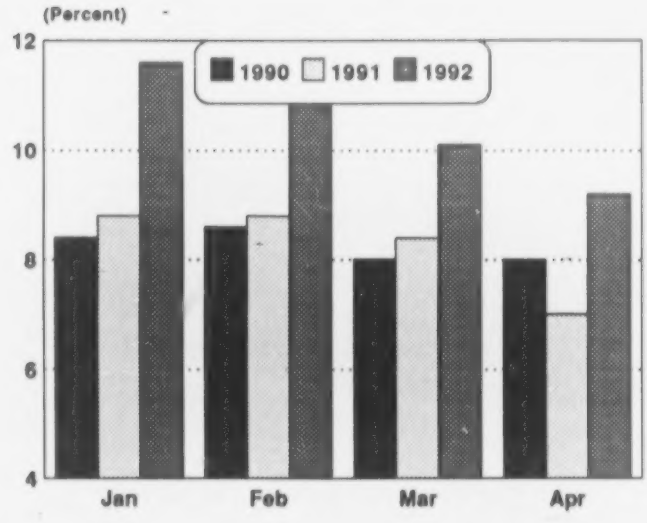
Job market loosens up slightly

This is the time of the year when the job market loosens up; thousands of people return to work or find new jobs in tourism, construction, fishing and many other industries. Finding that first job or seasonal job will be more difficult this year than it has been in four years. The state's unemployment rate fell nearly a point in April and it will continue declining for the next four to five months. This April's unemployment rate of 9.2%, however, is nearly 1.5 points higher than last year and translates into 3,000 more Alaskans unemployed than last April. (See Figure 2.) Although employment is still expanding, there are more job seekers chasing after these opportunities than previously. More high school and college graduates, more new entrants and a growing number of new arrivals all add up to a more competitive job market.

The national labor market is beginning to show some signs of improvement. This could eventually take some of the pressure off the Alaska job market. Unless a strong recovery begins in the next few months though—which is unlikely—the improvements will do little for Alaska this year.

Figure • 2

April's Unemployment Rate Remains Highest In 3 Years



Source: Alaska Department of Labor, Research and Analysis Section.

Table • 3

Alaska Hours and Earnings for Selected Industries

	Average Weekly Earnings			Average Weekly Hours			Average Hourly Earnings		
	p/ 4/92	r/ 3/92	4/91	p/ 4/92	r/ 3/92	4/91	p/ 4/92	r/ 3/92	4/91
Mining	$1,197.86	$1,200.85	$1,154.87	51.3	51.1	48.2	$23.35	$23.50	$23.96
Construction	1,020.77	959.69	1,030.75	43.4	41.1	43.4	23.52	23.35	23.75
Manufacturing	451.78	507.53	566.23	41.6	50.4	49.8	10.86	10.07	11.37
Seafood Processing	352.99	428.04	494.28	43.1	56.1	55.6	8.19	7.63	8.89
Trans., Comm. & Utilities	635.60	607.39	590.54	35.0	33.8	33.9	18.16	17.97	17.42
Trade	350.57	357.90	354.41	32.4	33.2	31.9	10.82	10.78	11.11
Wholesale	564.72	585.33	575.78	38.6	39.1	39.6	14.63	14.97	14.54
Retail	308.57	312.97	310.69	31.2	32.1	30.4	9.89	9.75	10.22
Finance-Ins. & R.E.	431.36	424.31	397.65	34.9	35.3	33.9	12.36	12.02	11.73

Notes:
p/ denotes preliminary estimates
r/ denotes revised estimates
Benchmark: March 1991

Averages are based on data for full- and part-time production workers (manufacturing) and nonsupervisory workers (nonmanufacturing) and are for gross earnings and hours paid, including overtime pay and hours.

Source: Alaska Department of Labor, Research & Analysis Section.

The unemployment picture improved in nearly all parts of the state. The largest improvement came in Southeast communities as timber activity picked up and the herring harvest got underway. Haines enjoyed the single largest improvement, where the rate fell by nearly five points to 15.5%—a big drop but still a high rate. Most other areas of the state experienced small improvements in their unemployment picture. Kodiak Island Borough was the only area that experienced a significant increase in the unemployment rate because of closures of bottomfisheries.

Summary: employment is still ahead of last year

The employment count for the first third of 1992 remains positive in Alaska. Not all industries nor geographic regions are growing, but on the whole the state remains in the black. Only the oil and timber industries are running behind last year's levels. The news in the oil patch is no surprise given weak oil prices and the many announcements made by the big players of their intentions to retrench. Timber's losses are smaller and could rebound some this year because timber prices are on the upswing.

Some of the big winners in job growth remain retail trade and air transportation. Most of retail trade's robustness is a result of new retailers in Fairbanks during the last six months. In the largest retail market, Anchorage, the retail trade picture is weak. This could change soon, however, since at least four national retailers have plans to expand in Anchorage.

The labor market began loosening up in April as the state's seasonal industries readied themselves for the summer. Unemployment rates fell around the state as many workers began to returning to seasonal jobs. The job market, however, remains more competitive than it has been for several years. Slower employment growth coupled with more job seekers are making the task of finding a job this year more difficult than in the past four years.

Table • 4

Labor Force By Region and Census Area

	Labor Force			Unemployment			Rate %			Employment		
	p/ 4/92	r/ 3/92	4/91	p/ 4/92	r/ 3/92	4/91	p/ 4/92	r/ 3/92	4/91	p/ 4/92	r/ 3/92	4/91
Alaska Statewide	255,231	253,961	256,626	23,473	25,524	19,747	9.2	10.1	7.7	231,758	228,437	236,879
Anch.-MatSu Region	131,618	131,785	132,821	10,852	11,608	8,978	8.2	8.8	6.8	120,766	120,177	123,843
Munic. of Anchorage	114,828	115,084	116,275	8,350	8,838	6,986	7.3	7.7	6.0	106,478	106,246	109,289
MatSu Borough	16,790	16,701	16,546	2,502	2,770	1,992	14.9	16.6	12.0	14,288	13,931	14,554
Gulf Coast Region	30,401	29,255	30,725	3,974	4,062	3,043	13.1	13.9	9.9	26,427	25,193	27,682
Kenai Peninsula Borough	19,046	18,557	19,222	2,854	3,121	2,261	15.0	16.8	11.8	16,192	15,436	16,961
Kodiak Island Borough	6,754	6,211	6,719	584	329	256	8.6	5.3	3.8	6,170	5,882	6,463
Valdez-Cordova	4,601	4,487	4,784	536	612	526	11.6	13.6	11.0	4,065	3,875	4,258
Interior Region	35,836	35,924	34,726	3,978	4,419	3,641	11.1	12.3	10.5	31,858	31,505	31,085
Fairbanks North Star Bor.	30,930	30,971	29,939	3,306	3,654	2,986	10.7	11.8	10.0	27,624	27,317	26,953
Southeast Fairbanks	2,112	2,097	1,976	347	351	254	16.4	16.7	12.9	1,765	1,746	1,722
Yukon-Koyukuk	2,794	2,856	2,811	325	414	401	11.6	14.5	14.3	2,469	2,442	2,410
Northern Region	8,414	8,259	8,499	911	864	695	10.8	10.5	8.2	7,503	7,395	7,804
Nome	3,157	3,117	3,182	413	412	328	13.1	13.2	10.3	2,744	2,705	2,854
North Slope Borough	2,963	2,899	3,040	125	102	88	4.2	3.5	2.9	2,838	2,797	2,952
Northwest Arctic Borough	2,294	2,243	2,277	373	350	279	16.3	15.6	12.3	1,921	1,893	1,998
Southeast Region	34,371	34,195	35,240	2,840	3,593	2,594	8.3	10.5	7.4	31,531	30,602	32,646
Haines Borough	888	911	876	138	183	100	15.5	20.1	11.4	750	728	776
Juneau Borough	15,154	14,865	15,510	895	1,027	747	5.9	6.9	4.8	14,259	13,838	14,763
Ketchikan Gateway Bor.	6,470	6,465	6,662	627	794	612	9.7	12.3	9.2	5,843	5,671	6,050
Pr. of Wales-Outer Ketch.	2,618	2,691	2,754	293	434	346	11.2	16.1	12.6	2,325	2,257	2,408
Sitka Borough	3,966	3,932	4,033	252	327	187	6.4	8.3	4.6	3,714	3,605	3,846
Skagway-Yakutat-Angoon	1,723	1,759	1,748	271	350	245	15.7	19.9	14.0	1,452	1,409	1,503
Wrangell-Petersburg	3,552	3,572	3,657	364	478	357	10.2	13.4	9.8	3,188	3,094	3,300
Southwest Region	14,591	14,543	14,615	918	978	796	6.3	6.7	5.4	13,673	13,565	13,819
Aleutians East Borough	1,031	1,021	1,026	30	28	14	2.9	2.7	1.4	1,001	993	1,012
Aleutians West	2,842	2,824	2,868	38	42	34	1.3	1.5	1.2	2,804	2,782	2,834
Bethel	5,641	5,599	5,625	458	457	387	8.1	8.2	6.9	5,183	5,142	5,238
Bristol Bay Borough	570	579	562	41	54	28	7.2	9.3	5.0	529	525	534
Dillingham	2,668	2,662	2,636	192	206	134	7.2	7.7	5.1	2,476	2,456	2,502
Wade Hampton	1,839	1,858	1,898	159	191	199	8.6	10.3	10.5	1,680	1,667	1,699

Notes: p/ denotes preliminary estimates r/ denotes revised estimates Benchmark: March 1991

- *Federal guidelines require the use of unrounded labor force data, adjusted to be consistent with the Current Population Survey in formulas used to allocate federal funds.*
- *Comparisons between different time periods are not as meaningful as other time series published by the Alaska Department of Labor.*
- *The official definition of unemployment currently in place excludes anyone who has made no attempt to find work in the four-week period up to and including the week that includes the 12th of each month. Most Alaska economists believe that Alaska's rural localities have proportionately more of these discouraged workers.*
- *he employment numbers that appear above are definitionally different from those that appear in the Nonagricultural Wage & Salary Employment tables.*

Source: Alaska Department of Labor, Research & Analysis Section.

Alaska Employment Service

Anchorage: Phone 269-4800
Bethel: Phone 543-2210
Dillingham: Phone 842-5579
Eagle River: Phone 694-6904/07
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Fairbanks: Phone 451-2871
Glennallen: Phone 822-3350
Kotzebue: Phone 442-3280
Nome: Phone 443-2626/2460
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Valdez: Phone 835-4910
Kenai: Phone 283-4304/4377/4319
Homer: Phone 235-7791
Kodiak: Phone 486-3105
Seward: Phone 224-5276
Juneau: Phone 790-4562
Petersburg: Phone 772-3791
Sitka: Phone 747-3347/3423/6921
Ketchikan: Phone 225-3181/82/83

Alaska Economic Regions

The mission of the Employment Security Division is to promote employment and economic stability by responding to the needs of employers and job seekers.

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